

add the following new claims for examination on the merits.

28. (NEW) A method of playing a card game, comprising the steps of:  
providing a standard deck of cards;  
having a dealer deal a set of cards to each of a plurality of players and to the dealer itself, an equal number of cards being dealt to each player, said equal number being from 3 to 7;  
having each player make a wager prior to viewing the face value of their respective cards;  
having each player split their respective set of cards into two half-hands, a first half-hand having a LOW value and a second half-hand having a HIGH value wherein the total number of cards in either half-hand does not exceed the total number of cards in the other half-hand by more than one card;  
having the dealer split its set of cards into two half-hands, a first half-hand having a LOW value and a second half-hand having a HIGH value wherein the total number of cards in either half-hand does not exceed the total number of cards in the other half-hand by more than one card;

designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein each of said players and said dealer are dealt 4 cards, wherein each of said players may opt to discard one of said 4 dealt cards dealt to them and draw a replacement card upon the payment of a fee, and wherein said dealer can discard a card and draw a replacement card only if said 4 dealt cards dealt to said dealer meet a predetermined criteria.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 29, wherein said predetermined criteria comprises when at least 3 of said 4 dealt cards dealt to said dealer are equal in value and when at least 3 of said 4 dealt cards dealt to said dealer are one of a 6, 7, 8, or 9.

31. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of having a dealer deal includes dealing 4 cards to each player and wherein said steps of splitting the player's and dealer's cards into half-hands includes

making each half-hand with 2 cards.

32. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand is based on valuing aces as either 1 or 11, valuing 2's through 10's as 2 through 10, respectively, and valuing jacks, queens and kings as 10.

33. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand is based on poker values of the cards.

34. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand is based on valuing aces as 1, valuing 2's through 10's as 2 through 10, respectively,

and valuing jacks as 11, queens as 12 and kings as 13.

35. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein, after placing said wagers and prior to splitting the dealt card into half-hands, a single replacement card can be purchased by any player upon the payment of a predetermined replacement fee and discarding one of said dealt cards, and wherein, prior to splitting the dealer's dealt cards into half-hands, said dealer can draw a single replacement card under predefined conditions.

36. (NEW) The method of claim 35, wherein said replacement fee is 50% of the initial wager.

37. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further comprising, after said step of designating a player as a winner, the step of giving that player winnings in the amount of a 1 to 1 pay-out minus a commission fee.

38. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further comprising, the step of designating a player's hand as

a push when either (a) one of the player's half-hands wins and the other of the player's half-hands loses; or (b) one of the player's half-hands wins and the other half-hand ties a non-losing half-hand of said dealer.

39. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further comprising, the step of designating a player's hand as a loser when either (a) both of the player's half-hands lose to respective half-hands of said dealer; or (b) one of the player's half-hands loses to a first corresponding half-hand of said dealer and the player's other half-hand ties a second corresponding half-hand of said dealer.

40. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein the players and dealer are dealt three cards.

41. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein the players and dealer are dealt four cards.

42. (NEW) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of giving the player an award if the player is dealt a hand of four-of-a-kind.

43. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein the players and dealer are dealt five cards.

44. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein the players and dealer are dealt six cards.

45. (NEW) The method of claim 28, wherein the players and dealer are dealt seven cards.

46. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further including the step of allowing a player to bank a hand for a fee provided the banking player has enough money to pay 100% of all potentially winning wagers to all remaining non-banking players.

47. (NEW) The method of claim 28, further including the step of allowing a player to co-bank a hand with the dealer for a fee provided the banking player has enough money to pay 50% of all potentially winning wagers to all remaining non-banking players.

48. (NEW) The method of claim 28 further comprising, after the step of placing a wager and prior to the step of splitting the cards into half-hands, the

step of each player and said dealer discarding a predetermined number of the dealt cards.

49. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein said predetermined number of the cards to be discarded is one card.

50. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein the said predetermined number of the cards is the amount of cards necessary to leave each said player and said dealer with 4 cards.

51. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein the dealer is dealt 4 cards and each player is dealt 7 cards and each player discards 3 cards prior to splitting the cards into half-hands.

52. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein each player and the dealer is dealt 7 cards and each discards 3 cards prior to splitting the cards into half-hands.

53. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein the dealer is dealt 4 cards and each player is dealt 6

cards and each player discards 2 cards prior to splitting the cards into half-hands.

54. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein each player and the dealer is dealt 6 cards and each discards 2 cards prior to splitting the cards into half-hands.

55. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein the dealer is dealt 4 cards and each player is dealt 5 cards and each player discards 1 card prior to splitting the cards into half-hands.

56. (NEW) The method of claim 48, wherein each player and the dealer is dealt 5 cards and each discards 1 card prior to splitting the cards into half-hands.

57. (NEW) A method of playing a card game, comprising the steps of:

providing a standard deck of cards;  
having a dealer deal a set of cards to each of a plurality of players and to the dealer itself, an equal number of cards being dealt to each player, said equal

number being from 6 to 7;

having each player make a wager prior to viewing the face value of their respective cards;

having each player split their respective set of cards into two half-hands, a first half-hand having a LOW value and a second half-hand having a HIGH value wherein the total number of cards in either half-hand does not exceed the total number of cards in the other half-hand by more than one card;

having the dealer split its set of cards into two half-hands, a first half-hand having a LOW value and a second half-hand having a HIGH value wherein the total number of cards in either half-hand does not exceed the total number of cards in the other half-hand by more than one card;

designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand.

58. (NEW) The method of claim 57, further comprising, after the step of placing a wager and prior to the step of splitting the cards into half-hands, each player and said dealer discarding a number of the

dealt cards necessary to leave each said player and said dealer with 4 cards.

59. (NEW) The method of claim 57, wherein said step of designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand is based on valuing aces as either 1 or 11, valuing 2's through 10's as 2 through 10, respectively, and valuing jacks, queens and kings as 10.

60. (NEW) The method of claim 57, wherein said step of designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand is based on poker values of the cards.

61. (NEW) The method of claim 57, wherein said step of designating a player as a winner if both (a) that player's LOW hand is lower than the dealer's LOW hand and (b) that player's HIGH hand is higher than the dealer's HIGH hand is based on valuing aces as 1,